



## **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

### **Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts Initiative 2017-2018 Deadline for applicants, extended to: Friday, March 10th**

The Montana Arts Council (MAC) and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) are teaming up to offer Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts (MTLA), a professional development initiative for K-12 educators across the state. Through this innovative program, MAC and the OPI seek to develop teacher leaders who can support other teachers statewide in integrating the arts into their classrooms. The MTLA program is supported by an Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

We are currently recruiting our third cohort to join the 29 educators who have previously completed the Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts program.

After years of struggle with cutbacks in budget and programs nationally, there is renewed interest in the impact the arts have on learning. With current research supporting the numerous benefits of arts education and 72% of business leaders identifying creativity as the number one skill they are seeking when hiring, (<http://goo.gl/vNxBNp>), MAC and the OPI see an opportunity to give arts education a much-needed boost in Montana's public schools. This initiative supports training cohorts of educators to serve as coaches, mentors, and advocates in their schools and communities for an arts-integrated approach to teaching and learning. These educators are Montana's Teacher Leaders in the Arts.

### **Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts will:**

- Gather arts-based tools to spark creative, engaged, and joyful teaching and learning for all learners, in any classroom environment.
- Study the relationship between arts learning and brain theory.
- Understand how the arts build critical habits of mind that lead to future success in college, careers, and civic life.
- Work collaboratively with other educators to build curriculum that supports both the arts and other content in an integrated model.
- Advocate for and champion arts learning back in their schools and communities by sharing their

knowledge and skills with other educators through field projects.

- Become catalysts for change to create more equitable access to arts learning opportunities for K-12 students in Montana schools.

### **Program Structure:**

The Initiative will include an on-site summer arts learning institute, online professional learning opportunities throughout the school year, and support for a field project in the teacher leader's school or region. Program structure includes the following activities:

- **Identification of Teacher Leader candidates** in a competitive application process. Up to 18 candidates will be identified for 2017-2018, representing a cross-section of Montana's various regions and communities.
- **Teacher Leaders in the Arts Summer Institute at Salish Kootenai College with guest faculty** who are established arts education leaders in the state, as well as national guest teaching artists. The dates for the 2017 Summer Institute are July 31-August 9.
  - Topics will include:
    - Multi-Disciplinary Arts Integration Tools and Strategies
    - Brain Theory
    - Building Creative Classrooms
    - STEAM learning
    - Cultural Arts and Indian Education for All
- **Online learning opportunities throughout the school year with master teachers and guest speakers on arts education topics.**
- **Monthly meetings of Teacher Leader candidates in an online professional learning community to share ideas and challenges and offer support.**
- **A stipend for an arts learning field project for each Teacher Leader candidate during the school year.** Project will be planned with the guidance of a mentor from the summer institute faculty.
- **Field projects and their outcomes documented on a website and shared with other Montana educators.**
- **Teacher Leaders candidates "graduate" and take on leadership roles in their schools, local communities, regions and statewide as coaches, mentors and advocates for arts learning in Montana's K-12 public schools.**

**To apply:**

1. **Fill out and submit the online application here:** <https://goo.gl/forms/HHjivLQcO1WY8ctT2>
2. **Electronically submit your resume or curriculum vitae to:**  
Czelsi Kozak, Montana Arts Council  
[ckozak@mt.gov](mailto:ckozak@mt.gov)

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, February 24, 2017.**  
**DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM TO CHRISTY MOCK-STUTZ AT OPI,**  
[cmock-stutz@mt.gov](mailto:cmock-stutz@mt.gov) or 444-0736

## **Teacher Leaders in the Arts FAQs**

### **Who can apply for the program?**

- Certified arts specialists in K-12 schools in any discipline.
- K-12 classroom teachers with demonstrated artistic background and/or high comfort level in arts learning.
- Principals and other school administrators.
- Retired teachers who were certified arts specialists.
- Professional teaching artists who demonstrate a significant level of experience in and knowledge of K-12 public education.

### **Who has participated in previous MTLA cohorts?**

- We have had educators from every size of school, from all subject areas and all grade levels, participate in our previous two MTLA cohorts, including:
  - Visual arts and music specialists, both elementary and secondary
  - Special education teachers
  - Teachers from the Flathead, Northern Cheyenne, and Fort Peck reservations
  - A teacher from a one-room schoolhouse
  - Two retired visual arts specialists
  - Elementary classroom teachers
  - A librarian/media specialist
  - A dance teaching artist

### **What is the criteria for selection of Teacher Leader candidates?**

- Three or more years of experience in the K-12 public school system.
- Demonstrated skill and expertise in any of the following artistic disciplines: visual art, media arts, dance, theatre, and music (general, vocal or instrumental).
- A willingness to work collaboratively with educators across grade levels and disciplines to build curriculum that supports both the arts and other academic content (ELA, math, science, social studies, Indian Education for All, etc.) in an integrated model.
- A willingness to work as an advocate and champion for arts education in your region, promoting equitable access to arts learning in all public schools.

- A willingness to serve as a coach and mentor to K-12 teachers in your region interested in learning more arts-based learning strategies for the classroom.
- Reliable access to technological tools to participate in a blended learning model of online PLCs and interactive webinars throughout the TLA training year.

### **Are there graduate credits or renewal units available?**

Yes, both renewal units for certified teachers and an optional 5 graduate credits will be offered through the University of Montana School of Extended Learning. The total fee for UM graduate credits last year was \$135 and is the responsibility of the candidate to pay upon arrival at the Summer Institute, when they will be registered for the credits.

### **What is the time commitment for Teacher Leader Candidates?**

Teacher Leaders in the Arts candidates must commit to attending the entire Summer Institute, July 31-August 9, 2017. **All candidates must be available to attend the entire Summer Institute, no exceptions will be made.** Beginning in September, 2017 through April, 2018, TLA candidates will commit to a one-hour online professional learning community each month with other cohort members, and a bi-monthly, 90-minute webinar on an arts education-related topic. TLA candidates will also commit to and receive a stipend for a field project, as well as classroom time with students to execute the planned project.

### **What do Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts do after they complete the program?**

Our Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts have stepped into leadership roles across the state. Here are just a few examples:

- Two MTLAs led the Arts Standards Institute at the 2016 MEA-MFT Educator's Conference.
- Other MTLAs have led Arts Standards workshops for the Prairie View Curriculum Consortium, the ACES Consortium and the Northwest Curriculum Cooperative
- One MTLA from Bozeman organized a whole series of arts learning workshops for her school staff, led by facilitators she met through the MTLA program.
- Several MTLAs participated on the writing teams for the revision of the new Montana Standards for Arts.
- Several MTLAs led breakout sessions at the first Montana Arts Education Leadership Summit in September, 2016.

### **Where will the Summer Institute be held?**

The 2016 Summer Institute will be held at Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in Pablo on the Flathead Reservation. Nestled at the base of the Mission Mountains, SKC has a beautiful campus that allows

TLA candidates rich learning opportunities to learn about the culture of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the many artists who make the Mission Valley home.

### **Does it cost money to participate?**

There is no fee for participants who are selected for the Teacher Leaders in the Arts Initiative. However, travel, meals and lodging are not provided. Candidates will have access to SKC campus housing at \$30/night, and pay a \$25 cleaning fee for a total of \$325. Housing includes private rooms with shared kitchen, bath and laundry facilities. Some candidates choose to stay with friends or family in the area, or commute if they live close by. Should candidates choose to earn optional UM graduate credits in the program, they are responsible for associated fees.

### **What technology will I need to participate?**

TLA candidates must have access to reliable, high-speed internet and an updated computer or tablet device at home or school in order to participate in the online portion of the Institute.

TLA candidates should also be familiar with (or willing to learn) online tools and social media, including Go to Meeting and other web conference platforms, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WordPress or similar blogging sites.

### **What are the benefits of becoming a Teacher Leader in the Arts?**

- The opportunity to learn from master arts educators in multiple disciplines from in and outside the state.
- The opportunity to network and collaborate with colleagues who share a passion for arts learning and all its possibilities.
- The opportunity for rejuvenation as you (re)discover arts-based tools that spark creative, engaged and joyful teaching and learning for you and your students.
- The opportunity to assert yourself as a leader in your school, district, region and statewide as you promote the power of arts learning for all students.

To apply: <https://goo.gl/forms/HHjivLQcO1WY8ctT2>

In addition to your online application, please email your curriculum vitae or resume to Czelsi at the Montana Arts Council, [ckozak@mt.gov](mailto:ckozak@mt.gov)

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[cmock-stutz@mt.gov](mailto:cmock-stutz@mt.gov) or 444-0736

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017.**

Montana Teacher Leaders in the arts receives funding support from:



**ART WORKS.**

**National  
Endowment  
for the Arts**

arts.gov